

FACT SHEET FOR NPDES PERMIT WA-004483-1
Amendment #1

TOWN OF ROCKFORD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

This fact sheet amendment is a companion document to the draft modification to the NPDES Permit, No. WA-004483-1, Spokane County. The Department of Ecology (the Department) is proposing to issue this permit modification.

This fact sheet explains the regulatory and technical basis for the amended conditions contained in the permit.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant: Town of Rockford

Facility Name and Address: Rockford WWTP (POTW)
P.O. Box 214
Rockford, WA 99030

Type of Treatment: Two aerated lagoons with one five acre retention pond and seasonal discharge to Rock Creek.

Treatment Plant Location: Rock Creek and State Highway 3-H

Latitude: 47° 27' 25" N Longitude: 117° 08' 46" W

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Town of Rockford is a small agricultural community located in Spokane County about 25 miles southeast of Spokane. The town has a population of approximately 533. The existing permit was reauthorized in March 2005 and will expire March 23, 2010. Effluent discharge to Rock Creek is seasonal, occurring during the months from February to April, with discharge allowed during the months December, January and May if the stream staff gauge in Rock Creek demonstrates that the necessary stream dilution is present.

PERMIT MODIFICATION

In a letter to the Department of Ecology (Department) dated April 22, 2005, the Town has asked for a reduction of influent testing during periods of non-discharge. The current sampling schedule creates a financial hardship for a town that has hardship scenarios already. At present, influent sampling of BOD and TSS are required. The current sampling frequency for influent BOD and TSS is once per week during possible discharge periods, and once every two weeks during non-discharging months. The Town has requested that influent testing be reduced during the months June through November; testing has been conducted on a regular basis since July 2003 thus providing the Department with plenty of background information for analysis, if necessary. During non-discharge periods, the Town will continue to monitor the two ponds for daily pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and flows. The Town is committed to protecting the quality of Rock Creek and has demonstrated that through consistent and accurate testing.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above information, the Department believes it is appropriate to grant the reduction in monitoring frequency for the influent BOD and TSS.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

The Department has tentatively determined to modify a permit to the applicant listed on page 1 of this fact sheet amendment. The permit contains conditions and effluent limitations which are described in the rest of this fact sheet.

The Department will publish a Public Notice of Draft (PNOD) on May 2, 2005, in the Spokesman Review to inform the public that a draft permit and fact sheet are available for review. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding the draft permit. The draft permit, fact sheet, and related documents are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, by appointment, at the regional office listed below. Written comments should be mailed to:

Water Quality Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
4601 North Monroe Street
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Any interested party may comment on the draft permit or request a public hearing on this draft permit within the thirty (30) day comment period to the address above. The request for a hearing shall indicate the interest of the party and the reasons why the hearing is warranted. The Department will hold a hearing if it determines there is a significant public interest in the draft permit (WAC 173-220-090). Public notice regarding any hearing will be circulated at least thirty (30) days in advance of the hearing. People expressing an interest in this permit will be mailed an individual notice of hearing (WAC 173-220-100).

Comments should reference specific text followed by proposed modification or concern when possible. Comments may address technical issues, accuracy and completeness of information, the scope of the facility's proposed coverage, adequacy of environmental protection, permit conditions, or any other concern that would result from issuance of this permit.

The Department will consider all comments received within thirty (30) days from the date of public notice of draft indicated above, in formulating a final determination to issue, revise, or deny the permit. The Department's response to all significant comments is available upon request and will be mailed directly to people expressing an interest in this permit.

Further information may be obtained from the Department by telephone, (509) 329-3567, or by writing to the address listed above.